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WASHINGTON STAR 2 3 FEB 1973

Letters to the Editor

Police and CIA Trainees

SIR: Rep. Kech has voiced "outrage" that the CIA agreed to assist twelve American cities in training some of their police in surveillance and other techniques in which that federal agency has expertise.

Koch protests that techniques of that type should never be used "against our own citizens". To do so, he says, creates a "sinister situation." Such statements, and the attitude that prompts them, are so naive and myopic as to be almost incredible.

Aside from the self-evident fact that training of the type described is under no reasonable interpretation the performance of an "internal security function," just how does Rep. Koch think our police are to combat internal subversion without using surveillance and other detection techniques? Perhaps Koch has not been told that police are being ambushed by persons whose purpose is to kill them and destroy the American social order. Or maybe he feels that because these radicals are, in his words, "our own citizens," we should avoid any detection or preventive activity so as not to offend their right of privacy.

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What prompts a politician like Koch to utter such absurdities is beyond normal understanding. Perhaps he needs some training in the facts of current life. But, please, don't ask the CIA to do the training.

Karl Ruediger.

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